



June 29, 2005

Dear Community Friends:

Summer Time Tips

We often see an increase in residential burglary and theft in the warm weather months. One reason is we tend to leave our windows open for ventilation when we are not home. In a vast number of burglaries, the burglar gains entry through an opened or unlocked door or window. We also see an increase in theft of personal property, because there is a tendency to leave items unattended at parks. Here are some summer safety tips

Close And Lock Windows; Limit How Far They Can Be Opened

When you are away from home, close and lock your doors and windows. If you want to leave windows open enough for ventilation, but not wide enough for someone to gain entry, use a dowel for sliding glass windows cut to allow the window to open no more than 4". For double hung windows, consider sash pins. Some windows have stops installed on the inside track, which will also prevent the window from being opened to far. Call me for a free home security survey where I can go over these options with you in further detail.

Lock Your Doors

I have seen reports of someone stepping out to the store for a short bit and leaving their doors visibly opened. They returned to find someone had burglarized the home. Anytime you leave your home, close and lock your doors. Let's not make it easy for the burglar

Working In The Yard

When working in the yard in the back of the home, do not leave the front door opened and/or unlocked. Also consider if you have a garage or storage unit that is out of your line of sight while you are working. If these are open, what are you showing in plain view to anyone who may be walking or driving by (including the purse on the kitchen table)?

Secure Your Tools

Gardening tools, lawnmowers, other yard tools, ladders... all tend to be stolen more in warm weather months. Make sure you lock them up in the garage, shed, etc.

Secure Bicycles

I've noticed a large number of bicycles being stolen in past summers. Locking these up with a bike chain - or storing them inside - can help prevent that.

Fireworks

There are no legal fireworks in the City of Seattle. The City Council enacted the fireworks ban in 1993. The Seattle Police Department strives to enforce the City of Seattle fireworks ban. Anyone caught using fireworks of any kind can be fined up to \$500 and sentenced to 180 days in jail. You are encouraged to follow the law and celebrate the 4th of July by watching one of our City's wonderful, public, fireworks displays.

Do Not Leave Pets Or Children Unattended In Vehicles

There are far too many reports of pets or children dying because they were left unattended in a hot vehicle with the windows rolled up. Don't leave children unattended in cars, even for a short time. If you leave a pet in a car, roll the windows down enough for ventilation and provide a dish of water. Better yet, leave Fido at home, rather than in a sweltering car.

Have a great summer and enjoy the warm weather and all the community festivals our city has to offer.

Take Care and Stay Safe!

Mark Solomon
South Precinct Crime Prevention Coordinator